

### Women Juries Now Popular.

New York City, Jan. 14.—Impressed by the ability of women juries in New Jersey, New York is now considering the advisability of introducing women jurors into its courts. A bill amending the present jury law to include "female citizens of the United States" as well as the male ones, is to be submitted to the New York legislature this month, and, as the legislature is known to be favorably disposed on the question, it is believed that it will be only a short time before "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury" will be an established form in the courts.

With the change in the law, jury service will become an obligation on the part of the women just as much as it is today with the men, and they will be subjected to the same strict rules. The present law provides that any person subpoenaed for jury duty who fails to respond is subject to punishment for contempt of court, and may be fined to the extent of \$100. It is doubtful whether this compulsory feature of the law will prove any more popular with women than with men, after the novelty of jury duty wears off, but for the first few years there will probably be few attempts at evasions.

Under present conditions, the courts are having more and more difficulty in obtaining complete juries of men. No man, it seems will serve on a jury if he can possibly avoid it. Already masculine ingenuity has been strained in inventing a large assortment of excuses from jury service, and it may be that in the future a long list of feminine excuses will be offered, headed by "necessity shopping" and "bridge club meetings."

But, so far, women have shown themselves much more interested in jury duty than men.

It was Judge Daniel A. Dugan, of the Essex county court, range, N. J., who first tried the experiment in this part of the country. In November, the judge suddenly found his panel of 300 men jurors drawn for his court at the beginning of the year running out, all of the men finding excuses of one kind or another to relieve them of the work. So, being more annoyed than usual, he took the radical alternative of drafting the newly enfranchised New Jersey women.

#### An Aristocratic Jury.

The women chosen were carefully picked, and represented some of the best families in Orange. Much to the surprise of the court, they appeared promptly in answering to the summons, and none offered an excuse to avoid serving. At the last moment, it is true, Mrs. Thomas A. Edison telephoned the judge and asked to be excused because her husband was ill, but she said that she would find some way to come if he could not find some one else to take her place.

According to Mrs. Everett Colby, who was appointed foreman of the jury, the women talked the matter over and decided that since they had gained the ballot after such a long, hard fight, they ought not object to fulfilling their responsibilities; when the call to jury duty came they would accept it without complaint.

"It was the most interesting experience," Mrs. Colby declared when the trial was over, and the ladies were discussing its features in the domestic atmosphere of an Orange tearoom. "It was the first time I had ever had the chance to watch the operations of a court, and there were lots of things we didn't understand, but of course we couldn't interrupt to ask questions."

"The most astounding thing to me was when two witnesses swore to exactly the opposite thing on the same point. We had to decide between them as to which was telling the truth, and we had nothing at all to go upon. We knew nothing about their history or what kind of people they were, and yet we had to determine which one was lying and which one was telling the truth. Of course, one of them was lying. But he was permitted to come into court and swear to a lie that he knew was a lie, and the jury decided against him, decided that he was lying, but he was allowed to go without anything being done to him."

"Our case, of course, was a simple one," continued Mrs. Colby. There was a dentist who came from a family of hucksters. There were three brothers and the dentist had taken one of his brothers and kept him in school, sending him through high school. Afterward, the boy became a huckster, but also helped in the office of his brother, the dentist. One of the witnesses, a woman, testified that she went to the dentist's office one evening at 8 o'clock and the boy tried to pull a tooth for her, but the tooth broke, and the blood began to flow. The boy told her she would have

to go away and come back again when the tooth stopped bleeding."

#### A Sample Case.

"She went away and when she came back her jaw was terribly swollen and she was suffering intensely. The boy explained that he could do nothing until the swelling went down, but as the pain was so great, she decided that she must have treatment immediately and went to another dentist. The new dentist treated her and extracted the piece of tooth left in her jaw, and told her to take it back to the other dentist and show him what he had done."

"The three brothers all swore that the boy was merely a huckster, and that he had never been in the dentist's office and had never worn a white coat in his life. But the woman positively identified the boy and other witnesses also identified him and said he had treated them in his brother's office. The boy was placed in a group of men seated in the courtroom, instead of on the platform, and still the witnesses had no difficulty in picking him out. They were also very positive in their statements and could not be confused and they didn't have any reason to be against the boy unless he really had been in the office."

Furthermore, the boy did not make a good impression in the court room. He had a regular Charlie Chaplin mustache, a lovely complexion and big, eloquent brown eyes, but he was too pert and flippant and sure of his ground.

"I'd much rather be tried by a jury of women than by a jury of men," he remarked on the morning that the case opened. "Women wouldn't be fair to a woman who was being tried, but with a man it'll be different. I'm satisfied, all right."

Thus the decision of the jury must have burst upon the young man with a tremendous shock. For it took them almost no time at all to find him guilty of the serious offense of practicing dentistry without a license. At first two of the twelve women were inclined to acquit him because they felt sorry for his brother, who had worked so hard to educate him, and who would now probably lose a good deal of his practice, but these did not hold out very long. The decision came in just seventeen minutes.

#### Judge Likes Women Jurors.

Judge Dugan was tremendously pleased with the result of this trial. It was, he declared precisely the decision he would have made himself. Since then he has been encouraged to repeat the experiment.

We have found women juries an unqualified success," he said recently, "and they have had the effect of making men juries easier to get. The men seem a little ashamed of themselves and they are not offering so many excuses to escape serving. I think including women in the jury lists will make the whole business easier. It doubles the number of available jurors for one thing."

"It is also possible to get a higher type of women to serve on a jury—the same type of men are too busy to serve. Some of the male juries we have are almost feeble minded, and the verdicts they render are absolutely ridiculous. I have thrown out many verdicts of men juries and ordered retrials. Sometimes I let them stand, because it doesn't make any difference, anyway. But often the verdicts are too irrelevant to the facts."

Judge Dugan is not sure that women would be as efficient in a murder case, or a very long-drawn-out civil case, where every point is a basis of a long argument. They would get tired, of course, but then it is not an unusual sight to see masculine jury nodding and dozing in the jury box, entirely oblivious to important testimony. Women could not do any worse than this, he says.

Anyway the judge is going to try it, and see what happens. The panel of 300 jurors for the Orange court this year is to be made up of 150 men and 150 women. And the next thing that is to be tried in court is a mixed jury of six men and six women. For the mixed jury, it is believed, will be the most successful kind of a jury ever developed under our judicial system.

#### SCHOOL NOTICE.

We expect to have a good meeting of teachers and trustees in the school auditorium Saturday, January 29th, at 11 o'clock. An interesting program will be had and the ladies of the W. C. T. U. will entertain us at luncheon. All trustees who can be with us, will please write a card to Mrs. J. L. Mims, that she may know how to prepare. All teachers are expected unless providentially hindered.

W. W. FULLER,  
County Supt. Education.

1-12-2t.

### December Dairy Honors.

Clemson College, Jan. 15.—Rockingham's Tulip, a guernsey owned by R. M. Cooper, Jr., Wisacky, produced an official test in December 68.04 pounds of butter-fat and 1,475.6 pounds of milk, thus winning first place on the December honor roll in the official test of cows in South Carolina. Rockingham's Tulip is not only a great producer but a remarkable show cow, and has won many honors on the show circuits. In 1920 she won 8 grand championships and did much to show the people of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, what South Carolina can produce in dairy cows. After returning from the show circuit, she was placed on official test in October, and her December production of over 5½ gallons of milk per day is further evidence of her ability as a producer.

Second honor on the December roll was won by Hazel Korndyke, a Holstein owned by H. D. Jordan, Ridge Spring, with a production of 66.34 pounds of butter-fat and 1,819.7 pounds of milk; third honor going to another Jordan Holstein, Aldrich, with a production of 65.72 pounds of butter-fat and 2,018.1 pounds of milk.

Included in the honor roll for December were 21 Guernseys, 23 Holsteins and 2 Jerseys, making a total of 46 out of 123 on official test. Of those on the honor roll 19 cows produced 50 or more pounds of butter-fat and six of these produced 60 or more pounds.

Owners of cows on the December honor roll were H. D. Jordan, Ridge Spring; J. K. Mayfield, Denmark; St. J. A. Lawton, Charleston; P. A. Baxley, Blackville; F. F. Rainsford, Trenton; South Carolina Experiment Station, Clemson College; J. Watt Weir, Cornwell; R. M. Cooper, Jr., Wisacky; J. M. Ervin, Darlington; A. L. James, Darlington; Jas. L. McIntosh, Dovesville; C. S. McCall, Bennettsville and Ware Shoals Mfg. Co., Ware Shoals.

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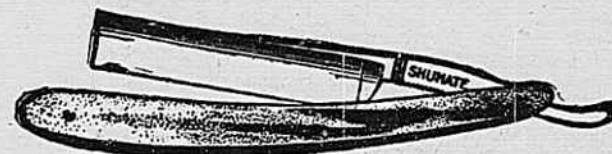
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